

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 14-16 are pending in the application. The pending claims have all been amended and claim 10 has been canceled by the foregoing amendment.

In response to objections to the Oath/Declaration, Applicants concurrently submit an Application Data Sheet as required by the Examiner.

In response to an objection to the Abstract, Applicants have enclosed a Substitute Abstract.

In response to claim objections under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph, claims 4, 14 and 16 have been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-8, 10 and 14-16.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,887,267 ("Heller"). Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 10. Therefore, claim 9, as amended, reflects claim 10 in independent form. Claim 10 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter if placed in an independent form to incorporate the limitations of the base claim (i.e. claim 9). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 9 is allowable.

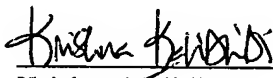
Claims 14-16 depend on allowable claim 9. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable.

Since claim 9 was indicated as being a linking claim, it is believed that the non-elected claims (i.e. claims 11-13), which depend on allowable linking claim 9, are also allowable.

All of the objections and rejections having been overcome, it is believed that this application in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to expediting the prosecution of this application, he is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Potomac Patent Group PLLC

By: 
Krishna Kalidindi
Reg. No. 41,461

Potomac Patent Group PLLC
P.O. Box 270
Fredericksburg, VA 22404
(703) 893-8500

Date: December 7, 2005